

Tribute to St Theresa

Edition: August 25

**She joined the angels way too soon.
Even though she had recently turned
90 years young, we wished for more
time with her.**



Mum had a radiant smile

At least we can celebrate the kindness and beauty of a wonderful woman.



She was blessed to see her 90th



Marynese Theresa Shillingford (nee Vidal), affectionately known as May May, was a beloved mother and numerous things to all who loved and cherished her in an amazing life. She was not just a dearly treasured mother to Ronnie and Jerry but also a wonderful sister, cousin, auntie, grandmother, mother-in-law, great-grandmother, godmother, friend and confidante to plenty.



Twinkle toes even at 90!

Mum was the fourth child of 10 children of Eloisine (Ma Sherry) and Sheridan Vidal. Born in Salisbury, Dominica on 6 May 1935, she attended the local primary school. She migrated to England for a better life in the 1950s, married and had three sons in total but sadly, Jacob, died just before his first birthday in 1960 in Dominica. She had an eventful life in London, working various jobs before a two-decade stint for London Transport until retirement at 60 in 1995.



Mum and Ella had a special relationship



Mum was always well cared for



Fun time at Indee's, Mero Beach



Jerry and Mum share a joke

Mum settled into retirement in a beautiful three-storey house she built in Salisbury, returning regularly to the UK to visit loved ones and to explore other parts of Europe, especially Lourdes, for a Catholic pilgrimage. Her religion was a great source of strength; she read her Bible regularly and attended Mass and other church-related events on travels. Her favourite hymn was 'How Great Thou Art', sung at the funeral on 25 July 25. Mum's other interests included gardening, knitting, sewing and choir singing. She was super-proud of her gardening certificates received from various workplaces. Some were framed and adorned on walls.



With the Shills 2024

Her kindness and generosity, both in spirit and financially, is legendary. Many can give examples of that. She'd return to Salisbury from London with suitcases packed with clothes, footwear and presents for loved ones. Cash gifts were always inserted in birthday cards to her family abroad, envelopes typically sealed so tightly with super glue that we'd have to prise them open. Mum lived the dream in retirement; summer months in England, winter months in her beloved Dominica.



With her special people at her 90th



Her brothers were at the 90th



The birthday cake was delicious



The milestone party was lovely



Mum's freshly painted house



Jasmin ran the London Marathon in Nanny T's honour

For us sons love was unconditional. She came in all weathers to watch Jerry play football, cheered us on in boxing matches even though us getting punched was excruciating for her. And her sense of fun showed at the Notting Hill Carnival despite being in full work uniform after a long day's shift.



With her brother Terry on her wedding day, 1957



Mum worked hard for 20 years for London Transport



All dressed up at a wedding, c1989



She enjoyed travelling around Europe



She kept lots of family photos, especially of her grandkids



Mum was proud of her gardening certificates



She was a keen member of the choir in Isleworth

Indulging her grandkids was constant. Jaffa cakes and little bottles of Chubby were abundantly available for eager children. A trip to the supermarket always guaranteed Nanny T leaving with a chocolate gateau. Her cupboards were constantly full of apple pies, biscuits and cakes for any excuse to pamper love ones.

A stylish dresser, Mum took pride in her appearance. Even a trip to the local shops involved a change of clothes, application of fresh makeup and choice of matching handbag.



Relaxing in London



Jerry's wedding to Vikki



Grand-daughter Jodie c1994



This was one of Mum's favourite old family pics



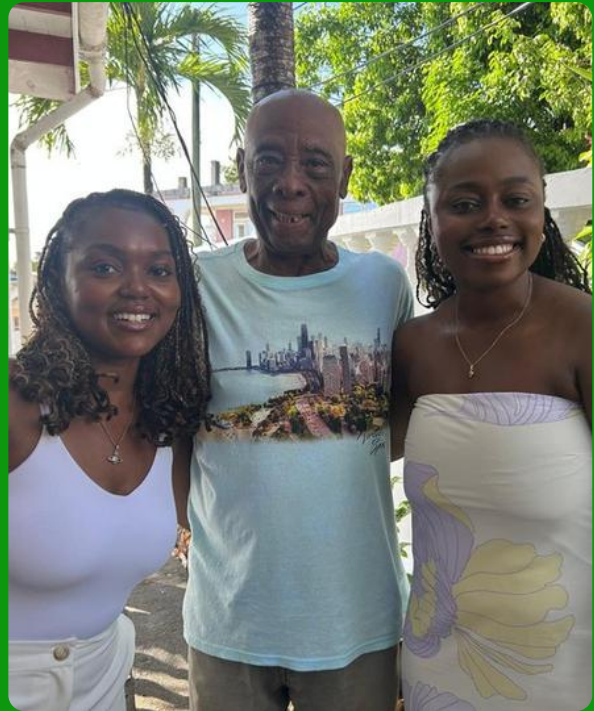
Cutting the cake at Ron's 60th

When dementia took hold towards the end leaving her almost mute, she still had a remarkable ability to remember lyrics from past hit pop records and her favourite prayers as recently as her 90th birthday party. (The Beatles, Elvis, Everly Brothers and Motown classics were her favourites.) The next day she was able to walk briefly at her favourite spot, Mero Beach. The fact that she reached that milestone is mainly because Mum was so wonderfully looked after by her devoted carer Adelyn Estivern and daughter Jenica, her brother Mark and niece Connie as well as numerous kind others.



Mero Beach day out

St Theresa passed from heart failure at the Dominica China Friendship Hospital, Roseau after a short illness on 9 July 2025. Fittingly, the funeral service was at Salisbury's Catholic church, St Theresa. She joined deceased siblings Irma, Eurie, Terry, Madalyn, Fred, Rolly and Nickelson. Her surviving siblings are Madonna, Mark, Andrew, Delvin and Tony. Sons: Ronald and Jerry. Grandkids: Jodie, Jake, Jasmin and Ella. Great-grandson: Roman.



Ella, Uncle Noan and Jasmin



Uncle Ato looked after Mum brilliantly

Mum attended Our Lady of Sorrows and St Bridget of Sweden church in Isleworth when she lived in England from 1963-2018. The church emailed: "May your mother Theresa rest in eternal peace."

We thank all for your support at this sad and emotional time.

Blessings

Ronnie and Jerry Shillingford

Funeral on YouTube:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=B5YUUfgD5AY>



She was buried next to her baby son Jacob